

July 2003

Dear Colleagues:

VDOT and Virginia State Police are cracking down on HOV violators to ensure the benefits of using the lanes are preserved.

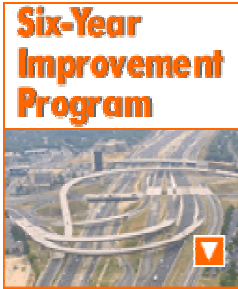
The HOV system in Northern Virginia is one of the most successful in the country. The number of people who use these lanes to carpool, vanpool or take the bus grows every year. The benefits of HOV lanes are clear: they help manage congestion, they provide carpoolers with significant time savings and they help the region attain our clean air goals. One of the best examples of this success is on I-95 south of Springfield where the number of vehicles using the HOV lanes has almost doubled in the last four years. On a typical weekday morning, the HOV lanes carry more people than the regular lanes. The four regular lanes carry 21,840 people in 18,800 vehicles while at the same time the two HOV lanes carry 22,400 people in 7,570 vehicles.

Starting July 16, Virginia State Police are stepping up HOV enforcement on I-95, I-395, I-66 and the Dulles Toll Road and are adopting a **"No Excuses"** attitude with violators. Overhead message signs will warn commuters that HOV violators will be ticketed at the start of the restriction. VDOT and State Police are also running radio spots to spread the word on the **"No Excuses"** enforcement. Commuters interested in forming carpools to legally use the HOV lanes have a number of resources to assist them. HOV rules and hours are available at VirginiaDOT.org. HOVCalculator.com shows how many minutes commuters can save on their morning commute. Commuter Connections at 800-745-RIDE helps commuters find carpool partners, a vanpool or a bus to get to work.

While increased enforcement is part of the answer, it is not the only answer to the increasing number of HOV violators. Last May, Secretary Whit Clement and Secretary John Marshall convened a task force to find and recommend solutions to improve HOV enforcement. The Task Force includes VDOT, State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. By August 15, the task force will report to the secretaries on a number of areas including tougher sanctions.

Sincerely,
Tom Farley
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Northern Virginia District Administrator
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What's New



Transportation projects proposed for construction, development or study over the next six fiscal years

Manassas National Battlefield Bypass Study – The Federal Highway Administration and National Park Service are holding a public workshop to present the candidate build alternatives proposed for detailed study in the Environmental Impact Study. The 5 to 8 p.m. meeting will be held on July 16 at the Comfort Suites Hotel on Williamson Boulevard, just south of the I-66 and Route 234 Interchange. Presentation begins at 6 p.m.

News Releases

Virginia Cracking Down on HOV Violators

<http://www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/news/newsrelease.asp?ID=NOVA-50>

VDOT Completes Phase 1 of Route 123 Widening

<http://www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/news/newsrelease.asp?ID=NOVA-NV03-48>



Fairfax & Arlington Co.



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Projects to be Advertised for Construction Bids within the next 12 months

Note: Construction typically begins three to four months after a project is advertised.

Burke Lake Road Widen from two to four lanes from Lee Chapel Road to the Fairfax County Parkway (1.2 miles).
Ad date: Dec. 2003

Dulles Toll Road Modify Smart Tag lanes at both Route 28 and the Main Toll Plaza. This will include upgrading toll collection equipment and signage for Smart Tag lanes. The existing Smart Tag lane at Route 28 North will be improved to an open toll lane. Ad date: July 2003.

Glebe Road Install left turn lanes on Glebe Road at Columbia Pike. Ad date, Dec. 2003

Interstate 395 Enhance signage from Washington Boulevard to the District of Columbia line. Ad date, Dec. 2003

Interstate 495 Erect a sound wall, 2,089 feet in length, on the inner loop of the Capital Beltway just north of Old Dominion Drive at West Langley. Ad date: Jan. 2004.

Lorton Road Widen from two to six lanes from Route 1 to Silverbrook Road including a new bridge over Pohick Creek (1.06 miles). Ad date: Dec. 2003.

Pleasant Valley Road Straighten curves north and south of Braddock Road, and north of Martins Hundred Road. Ad date: July 2003.

Route 1 Widen from four to six lanes from south of Lorton Road to north of Telegraph Road (1.2 miles). Ad date: October 2003 (contingent on roadway easement from Ft. Belvoir).

Route 123 Widening

- **Phase 1** – Burke Lake Road to Lee Chapel Road (2.4 miles) completed, June 2003.
- **Phase 2** – Lee Chapel Road to Davis Drive (2.5 miles) is under construction.
- **Phase 3** – Widen from two to six lanes from Davis Drive to the Occoquan River Bridge (1.9 miles) is under construction.
- **Phase 4** – Replace two-lane bridge over the Occoquan River with a six-lane bridge and widen approaches.
Ad date: July 2003.

Springfield Interchange Final phases (Phases 6 and 7) of project. Ad date: June 2003.
(<http://www.springfieldinterchange.com/>)

West Ox Road Widen from two to four lanes from Ox Trail to Lawyers Road (1.1 mile). Ad date: Sept. 2003.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge (Va. Projects) (<http://www.wilsonbridge.com/>)

- Build new Washington Street overpass to span wider Beltway. Begins early 2003.
- Starting spring 2003, Washington Street approaching and over the Beltway will transition from four lanes to three, with a reversible lane maintaining two lanes in the direction of dominant traffic flow (e.g. northbound in the morning)
- Build new Beltway tie-in to future bridge. Begins mid-2003.
- Build bridges over Cameron Run and Hunting Creek to line up with widened Beltway. Begins mid-2003
- Demolish three Hunting Terrace buildings and two office buildings. Begins mid-2003.
- Construct new Route 1 interchange. Begins late 2003.
- Widen Beltway between Route 1 and Telegraph Road. Begins late 2003.

Fairfax and Arlington County Projects Under Construction

Beulah Street Widen from two to four lanes between the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Franconia Road (1.3 miles). Completion, summer 2004. (<http://www.virginia-dot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-BeulahStreet.asp>)

Barnesfield Road and Route 28 Interchange Partial cloverleaf to provide access to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Interchange will be open prior to the opening of the Museum in Dec. 2003. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-barnesfield.asp>)

Dulles Toll Road/Capital Beltway Widening ramps from one to two lanes both to and from the Capital Beltway. Completion, Sept. 2004. (<http://www.virginia-dot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-DTR-495.asp>)

Dulles Toll Road at Spring Hill Road Expanding toll plaza at the westbound Spring Hill Road entrance from one lane to three. Smart Tag can be used in all three lanes. Completion, spring 2003. (http://www.virginia-dot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-dulles_plaza.asp)

Rolling and Fullerton Roads Align intersection and add turn lanes. When completed, motorists will be able to use Fullerton Road through the Industrial Park. Completion, fall 2003. (http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-Rolling_FullertonRd.asp)

Route 28 Improvements Under the Public-Private Partnership Act, The Clark Construction Group, Inc. and Shirley Contracting Company, LLC will design and construct six high-capacity interchanges on Route 28 in Fairfax and Loudoun counties over the next four years. (<http://www.28freeway.com/>)

Route 123 Widening Phase 1 Widening Route 123 to four lanes divided from Burke Lake Road to Lee Chapel Road (2.4 miles). Completion, June 2003. (<http://www.virginia-dot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-rt123widening.asp>)

Route 123 Widening Phase 2 Widening Route 123 to four lanes divided from Lee Chapel Road to North Davis Drive (2.5 miles). Completion, summer 2004. (<http://www.virginia-dot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-123ph2.asp>)

Route 123 Widening Phase 3 Widening Route 123 to four lanes divided from North Davis Drive to Route 722 (1.9 miles). Completion, Oct. 2004.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Site and support work for construction of the new Museum south of Dulles International Airport. Includes completing service roads, haul roads, taxi pad, utilities and visitor and bus parking lots. Completion, summer 2003. (<http://www.nasm.si.edu/nasm/ext/>)

Springfield Interchange Construction is now focused on the Beltway between Van Dorn Street and Braddock Road. For lane closures, maps, photos and commuter options please visit springfieldinterchange.com. (<http://www.springfieldinterchange.com/>)

Van Dorn Street Safety Improvements New sidewalks, curb and gutter, roadway lighting, business entrances,

and a raised, landscaped concrete median will be added. Completion, summer 2003.
(<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-vandorn-safety.asp>)

Woodrow Wilson Bridge (Va. projects) Soil strengthening and stabilization work started Dec. 2001 and will continue until mid-2004. Demolition of one Hunting Tower building and two adjacent garages began in March 2003.
(<http://www.wilsonbridge.com/>)

Fairfax and Arlington County Projects Completed Since 2001

Burke Centre Parkway Widened from two to four lanes between Marshall Pond Road and Burke Lake Road. Improvements included dedicated left and right turn lanes, sidewalks and a multi-purpose trail for pedestrians and bicyclists, a new drainage system and signal improvements to help traffic flow.
(<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-burke-ctr-pkwy.asp>)

Columbia Pike Bridge over Four Mile Run Replaced original bridge, widened sidewalk on south side of bridge, replaced and repaired drainage systems and constructed approach slabs.
(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/arlington-columbiapikebridge.asp>)

Fairfax County Parkway Completion of the northern section of the Fairfax County Parkway gives motorists a continuous four and six-lane highway from Route 7 in Dranesville to Beulah Street in Kingstowne.
(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-ctyparkway.asp>)

Lorton Road Traffic back-ups at the Lorton Road underpass have eased since the road was widened from one to two lanes. The 70-year-old CSX bridge over Lorton Road was replaced with a 227-foot long bridge.
(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-lorton.asp>)

Lorton Road Park-and-Ride Constructed a new 170-space lot located just east of I-95.
(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-lortonrd-parkride.asp>)

Old Dominion Drive Bridge The 50-year-old bridge over Pimmit Run Creek on Old Dominion Drive in McLean has been improved and is open to motorists. (<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-olddom.asp>)

Route 28/Route 29 Interchange Construction of a grade-separated interchange in Centreville is now complete. Now, Route 28 traffic flows uninterrupted under Route 29 and both roads have six through lanes and additional turn lanes. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-rt2829.asp>)

Springfield Interchange Improvement Project Phases 2 and 3, which focused on improvements to I-95, Route 644 and other local roads in Springfield, were completed in late 2001. (<http://www.springfieldinterchange.com/>)

Stringfellow Road Park-and-Ride Constructed a 387-space lot adjacent to the I-66 HOV lanes.
(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-stringfellowp-r.asp>)

Sydenstricker Road Park-and-Ride Constructed a 170-space lot at the corner of Sydenstricker Road and Hooes Road, just off the Fairfax County Parkway. (<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-sydenstricker.asp>)

Telegraph Road Widening Widened from two lanes to four lanes with a 16-foot median and two four-foot bicycle lanes from Beulah Street to Route 1 (2.5 miles). (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-telegraph.asp>)



Loudoun Co.



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Potomac View Road (Route 637) Improve 1200 feet of roadway to provide 12-foot lanes and construct right and left turn lanes at entrance to First Baptist Church. Ad date: March 2004.

Red Bud Lane (Route 1505) Upgrade from a dirt road to a paved road from Route 1504 to one mile south of Route 1504. Construction will begin in spring 2003.

Shelburne Glebe Road (Route 729) Replace temporary bridge with permanent bridge over North Fork Goose Creek located .66 miles north of North Fork Road (Route 728). Ad date: May 2003

Ticonderoga Road (Route 613) Improve and realign intersection at Route 659. Ad date: Oct. 2003

Loudoun County Projects Under Construction

Route 28 Improvements Under the Public-Private Partnership Act, The Clark Construction Group, Inc. and Shirley Contracting Company, LLC will design and construct six high-capacity interchanges on Route 28 in Fairfax and Loudoun counties over the next four years. (<http://www.28freeway.com/>)

Lime Kiln Road Upgrading from gravel to asphalt and realigning roadway to improve sight distance (2.1 miles). Completion, spring 2003. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-limekiln.asp>)

Old Ox Road (Route 606) Widen from two to four lanes between Route 50 and Evergreen Mills Road/Route 621 (.81 miles) and improve drainage. A traffic signal will be installed at Route 621. Completion, fall 2003.

Loudoun County Projects Completed Since 2001

Dulles North Transit Center A 750-space commuter Park-and-Ride lot has been constructed at the Dulles Greenway and Route 606. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-rt606p-r.asp>)

Loudoun Orchard Road (Route 662) Upgrade dirt road to a paved road from intersection of Mt. Gilead Road (Route 797) to 0.38 miles south of Route 729 (1.3 miles). This is a pilot project under VDOT's new Rural Rustic Road Program. (http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-Orchard_Rd-rt662.asp)

Route 7 Crews added an additional lane in each direction between Cedar Drive and Dranesville Road. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-rt7.asp>)

Route 15 Safety improvements between Balls Bluff Road and White's Ferry Road (1.7 miles). Completed May 30, 2003. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-rt15-ballsbluff-whitesferry.asp>)

Route 28 Crews widened Route 28 and added two dedicated left-turn lanes onto Route 606 in Loudoun County. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-rt28.asp>)

Route 50 Bridge at Aldie Repair work is complete for the 180-year-old stone arch bridge on Route 50 over Little River near the Aldie Mill in Loudoun County. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-aldie.asp>)

Route 287 VDOT crews eliminated the curve on Berlin Turnpike to improve sight distance for motorists approaching the intersection. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-rt287.asp>)

South Church Street A half-mile section of South Church Street between Lovettsville Road and Berlin Turnpike was widened to improve safety. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-sthchurch.asp>)

Taylorstown Road Upgraded from a gravel road to a paved road between Furnace Mountain Road and Wilt Store Road. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-taylorstown.asp>)

Woodburn Road VDOT upgraded Woodburn Road from gravel to asphalt and realigned sections to improve sight distance and added drainage and other safety features. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/loudoun-woodburn.asp>)



Prince William Co.



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Projects to be Advertised for Construction Bids within the next 12 months

Note: Construction typically begins three to four months after a project is advertised.

I-66 Widening Add one regular lane and one HOV lane in each direction from Route 234 Business to the Route 234 Bypass (3 miles). Ad date: spring 2004.

Dumfries Road (Route 234) Widen from two to four lanes between Snowfall Road and Eclipse Drive (3.2 miles). Ad date: July 2003.

Ingram Drive Pave gravel road from 75 feet north of Chestnut Creek to Logmill Road (.77 miles). Ad date: July 2003.

Route 123 Occoquan River Bridge Replace existing bridge with new six-lane bridge and widen approaches. Ad date: July 2003.

Prince William County Projects Under Construction

Partridge Road Construct a pedestrian bridge over the CSX Railroad from Veterans Memorial Park to Partridge Road. Completion, fall 2003.

Route 234 Widening Widen from two lanes to four lanes divided from Purcell Road to Snowfall Drive (2.5 miles). Completion, August 2003. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-rt234wide2.asp>)

Route 234 Bypass Construct sound wall adjacent to the Great Oaks Subdivision. Completion, fall 2003.

Prince William County Projects Completed Since 2001

Horner Road Park-and-Ride Lot Expansion Completed the largest commuter lot in Virginia, with 2,267 spaces added by VDOT and the county. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-horner-ParkRide.asp>)

I-95 Bridge over Route 619 The 36-year-old north and southbound bridges over Route 619 were replaced with new bridges and shoulders wide enough to accommodate future travel lanes. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-I95rt619.asp>)

I-95 Bridges over Quantico Creek The 40-year-old north and southbound bridges over Quantico Creek were reconstructed with new bridge piers and widened shoulders. The bridges are wide enough to accommodate future travel lanes. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-I95quantico.asp>)

I-95/Route 234 Interchange The former diamond interchange is now a partial cloverleaf with loops in the northeast and southwest quadrants. The Route 234 bridge over I-95 has been widened and the acceleration and deceleration lanes on I-95 were lengthened. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-I95rt234.asp>)

Route 29/234 Intersection Safety Improvements Safety Improvements in the Manassas National Battlefield Park included adding left-turn lanes to each leg of the intersection, improving sight distance on Route 234, installing a pedestrian bridge, a crosswalk and traffic signals, and re-timing traffic signals. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-rt29-rt234-safety.asp>)

Route 234 Bypass Construction of a 10-mile, four-lane bypass west of Manassas is complete. The bypass runs from I-66 to Brentsville Road where it connects with existing Route 234. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-rt234byp.asp>)

Route 234 Widening Route 234 was widened from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane, divided highway. (<http://virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-rt234wide.asp>)

Route 234/Route 1 Park-and-Ride Constructed a 360-space lot near Route 1-95. (<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/prwilliam-I95-123.asp>)

Major Transportation Studies

Tri-County Parkway Location Study

(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/tcp.asp>)

VDOT is evaluating a new north/south transportation link to connect the City of Manassas with I-66 and the Dulles Corridor. More than 200 citizens attended information meetings held in Loudoun, Prince William and Fairfax counties during December 2002. The study team shared preliminary alternatives and sought public input. The study team is currently reviewing the initial range of conceptual alternatives to determine build alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Capital Beltway Study

(<http://project1.parsons.com/capitalbeltway/>)

In March 2002, the Federal Highway Administration approved the draft environmental impact statement for improvements to the 14-mile section between the Springfield Interchange and the American Legion Bridge. More than 1,000 citizens attended the public hearings held on May 28, 29 and 30, 2002. Currently, VDOT is evaluating the concept of implementing HOT lanes (high occupancy toll lanes) on the Beltway. VDOT will make a recommendation on the Capital Beltway Study to the Commonwealth Transportation Board in spring 2004.

I-66 Multimodal Transportation and Environmental Study

(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/studynova-rt66.asp>)

VDOT and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation are identifying possible highway, rail and bus improvements along the 24-mile corridor from the Capital Beltway to Route 15 at Haymarket. The Environmental Impact Study is expected to be complete in 2004. Public information meetings are anticipated for late 2003 or early 2004.

Route 1 Location Study

(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/studynova-rt1.asp>)

VDOT has developed concepts for improving the 27-mile corridor from the Stafford County line to the Capital Beltway. Due to the length of the corridor the study is divided into three sections. Three location hearings were held in spring 2003. VDOT is now reviewing comments from the public hearings. The Steering Committee met on June 19 to make recommendations, but several issues require further study: the configuration of Possum Point Road intersection in Dumfries, configuration of the Dale Boulevard interchange, and whether to expand to eight lanes north of Route 235.

Route 50 Traffic Calming Project

(<http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/studynova-rt50.asp>)

VDOT and the Route 50 Traffic Calming Task Force are developing construction plans that will implement concepts to calm traffic, enhance the scenic beauty and historic nature of the area and provide for enhanced pedestrian safety and accessibility along the corridor. An additional \$3 million has been identified in the Six-Year Plan for improvements at Gilberts Corner. This money will accrue towards construction of the proposed roundabouts at Routes 50 and 15.

Non-VDOT Studies

Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit

(<http://www.dullestransit.com/>)

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation intends to submit a formal request to the Federal Transit Administration to begin preliminary engineering on the Metrorail extension in late June or early July 2003. Work on the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement is underway; publication expected in early 2004.

Capital Beltway Rail Feasibility Study

(<http://www.drpt.state.va.us/projects/previous/bwr.asp>)

Study completed in April 2001 by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Manassas National Battlefield Park Bypass Study

(<http://www.battlefieldbypass.com>)

The Federal Highway Administration and National Park Service are developing and evaluating alternatives to allow for closing portions of Route 29 and 234 in the Park. A public workshop was held Dec. 12, 2002 for citizens to learn more about the project and provide input. The next public workshop will be held July 16, 2003 to present the candidate build alternatives proposed for detailed study in the EIS.